



California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

The Informer

Message from HQ

LTC Richard M. H. Loesch
CDTF Commander



Fourth Quarter 2003
California National Guard
Counterdrug Task Force

Inside This Issue

- 2** CSM Message
- 2** Retirement Notice
- 3** CDTF Vacancy Announcements
- 4** Deployed Guardsmen Spotlight
- 6** DARE Survives Budget Cuts in Oak Park
- 7** Identity Theft on the Rise. How to Prepare
- 8** Vision Statements

Counterdrug Headquarters
Sacramento, CA

Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published.

I never quite know where to start. We have had a busy two and a half months. I was very happy to get out and meet with all of you; however, I was not necessarily thrilled to be briefing Mission Transition/Reduction in Force (RIF) issues.

We are now conducting interviews for vacancies in DDR, TFO, and the WRCT. The respective boards will conclude this month and their selections will be posted immediately thereafter. There are other vacancies throughout this task force. These vacancies are posted on our web site. We also provide links to other vacancy announcements within the California National Guard (CNG). Please, if you are affected by this RIF and want to remain part of the CDTF, or on active duty with the CNG, watch for these vacancy announcements and apply.

We completed the last 2003 Horizon Conference during the first week of September. The focus was on FY 04 team briefs to the staff and other teams. We now have a broader understanding through the task force leadership of what each team expects to accomplish during this upcoming year. My intent is to conduct two Horizon Conferences each year. The first in April, following the national CDC Conference, will feature my Yearly Guidance (YG) to the teams and staff as well as staff briefs to the teams. The second conference in late August/early September allows each team to brief me and the staff on how they will conduct operations based on the YG they received at the first conference.

These conferences are the closest we will be able to come to bringing the entire task force together at one time. They are as valuable for the cross talk that occurs between teams and staff as for what is actually presented.

Most of you have had the pleasure of meeting our new Command Sergeant Major, CSM Hal London. He has hit the ground running and is being fed his dose of Counterdrug through a fire hose. He is holding his own I'm happy to say. I ask all of you to remember that CSM London serves our enlisted soldiers and airmen's interests. He is here to ensure that when meeting our mission requirements we take into account soldier/airmen care and safety issues. He reports only to me and speaks with my authority.

There are some other personnel changes within the task force taking place as you read this. MAJ Reyes C., CW2 D., and SMSgt F., from the WRCT at Camp San Luis Obispo, are moving to National Guard Bureau – Counterdrug (NGB-CD) in Arlington, VA. MAJ C. will take over as the NGB-CD Training Chief. Ms. D. will join the Command Program Evaluation (CPE) team. SMSgt F. moves into the NGB-CD Media/

See "Message" on page 3

CSM's Message

By CSM Hal London
CDTF Command Sergeant Major

I first want to say how extremely pleased I am to be serving with you as the CDTF Command Sergeant Major (CSM). I have been welcomed by every soldier and airmen I have visited.

We are involved in some challenging times throughout the CDTF for the next fiscal year.

Some of those challenges are already taking place through our implementation of the mission changes. As the CDC stated previously in the last newsletter, this headquarters would do everything within its authority and ability to assist the soldiers and airmen to find new employment. CSM Sally Donahe, the Joint Staff Division Command Sergeant Major, has

also joined the campaign to assist our soldiers and airmen who have been involved in the mission change.

I want to discuss two things in this article; mission accomplishment and standards.

During my visits I have heard more times than not; "Complete the mission by any means it takes." The implication of this statement, in my mind, means possibly sacrificing safety and not doing things to standard. The mission given to this Task Force can be very dangerous without our soldiers and airmen performing non-standard tasks or bending the safety practices and

procedures. I am not saying that I have witnessed these actions but I have heard this statement made a couple of times.

FM 22-100 (Army Leadership) Defines leadership as "**influencing** people—by providing purpose, direction, and motivation—while **operating** to accomplish the mission and improving the organization". I have heard this definition restated like this "Mission first, people always." I would add to that last statement "Mission first, standards always, and people forever."

Standards are those things that give us the foundation for which we can measure our performance and accomplishments.

I was recently told a story by a CSM friend of mine that he heard from the current FORSCOM CSM, CSM Christian.

"If you witness a soldier or airmen doing a task and you recognize that the task is not being completed to

standard. And then you

decide to not make the on the spot correction. Have you not just created a new standard by not making the "On the Spot Correction?" CSM Christian says you have.

Officers and Senior NCOs are the standard bearers in this organization. Please remember that you are judged as a leader approximately 90% of the time through the soldier's and airmen's perception.

The United States military uses standards for everything we do. These standards are established for all to adhere to and enforce.



Retirement Notice

Command Sgt. Maj. Billy J. Lewellen ended 43-years of service to the California National Guard and the United States Army at a farewell

dinner held in his honor in Stockton, Calif. In his usual fashion, he turned an event that was meant



to honor him, into an event he used to honor the men and women that he has served with. Command Sgt. Maj. Lewellen's presence will not only be missed in the headquarters building, but in the task force as a whole.

CSM Lewellen began his military career in 1961 as a Nike Hercules Radar operator. He served on active duty for 4 years before joining the National Guard. In the guard he became a CH-46 mechanic and quickly rose through the enlisted ranks. All along the way he heeded some advice given to him by his very first NCOIC. That advice was to always look out for his troops.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lewellen's list of awards and decorations is too long to print here, but it includes The Order of California, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Army Commendation Medals, 2 California Medals of Merit and 4 California Good Conduct Medals.

The command staff would like to extend its best wishes to and a heartfelt thanks for Command Sgt. Maj. Lewellen's dedication and service to the task force.

“Message” from page 1

Training NCO position. CPT Central P., TSH XO, was selected to replace MAJ C. as commander of WRCT. SGT Y., also from TSH, will move to WRCT as a course manager. I am happy to have a California presence up at NGB-CD and wish our former and new WRCT'ers God speed.

TFA and TCO are, in effect, deployed through the first quarter of FY 04. Keep them and all our deployed soldiers and airmen in your thoughts and prayers. A hearty “Welcome Home” to THA, I am happy to say they returned intact and are back doing CDTF missions. Speaking of deployments, CNG has large worldwide requirements through 2006. These deployments will continue to affect our task force as soldiers and airmen leave to do their part with their M-Day units. I will work closely with the deploying commands to ensure our task force remains mission capable.

The last page of the newsletter displays the CSM's and my Vision Statements. The CSM will elaborate on his; I want to share a few words regarding mine. The last sentence in my Vision Statement “Courage, Candor, Commitment, and Competence lead to Credibility and Confidence” is a phrase I adopted when I became a battalion commander. I chose it because this phrase encompasses the qualities required of all of us to do the jobs we do. As a task force, we must remain credible to those agencies and organizations we support. Likewise those supported agencies and organizations must have the confidence that we can do what we say we will. Without credibility and confidence on the part of these agencies and organizations toward us, we have no mission. Courage, candor, commitment, and competence are the traits we must carry into everything we do to ensure we remain relevant. I will hold you to this standard and I expect you to do the same for me.

Carry On!

“CSM” from page 1

Maintain the standard and we will keep our friends, co-workers and fellow compatriots safe and professional for many years to come.

Be safe, smart and don't compromise the standards we have all been taught.

I look forward to working with all of you and hope that you and your families are doing well.

Please take time to say a prayer for our fellow soldiers and airmen that are still deployed. We wish them a safe and hasty return.

CSM Hal London

Transistion Assistance

For Task Force members who are thinking about optioning out of active duty, several sources are available to aid you in your career search. All military basis have transistion assistance offices. These offices offer many services from job placement to resume writing. Another valuable resource is the internet. One such site is www.militaryveteranemployment.com. This site is hosted by a comapny called Orion International. They specialize in placing veterens in the civilian work force. Good luck to all!

Counterdrug Vacancy Announcements By Team

Task Force Vacancies

Currently, there are 5 posted vacancies within the Counterdrug Task Force. Additionally, there are 8 posted vacancies within the Drug Demand Reduction program. All of these vacancy announcements can be downloaded at the CDTF website at www.calguard.ca.gov/cdtf/jobs/. The website also offers the forms neccessary to apply. For more information please contact the CDTF J-1.

TFO - 3 Vacancies for Intellegence Analysts
TFO - 1 Vacancy for Translator/Transcriber
CDHQ - 1 Opening for an Operations NCO
DDR - 8 Openings for Operations NCO's

Separation Pay:

For those soldiers and airmen affected by the recent reduction in force (RIF) separation pay is an option if you have more than 6 years of continuous active duty service. Here is the formula for figuring out your entitlement: Base Pay x 12 x 10% (.10) x No. of years of active service. Be aware that separation pay is considered an advance on your National Guard retirement. Using this option will substantially decrease your retirement benefit. To request separation pay, a formal memo requesting it must be sent to the CDC to start the process. Also be aware that this process could take up to three months to receive a cash benefit.

CDC receives letter, insight

Like many units in the California National Guard, The CDTF has lost its share of soldiers to deployments overseas. Some have gone and returned, others are still with their units fighting the good fight, wherever that may be. One such soldier is SPC Tracy F. SPC F. normally works at TSH assisting U.S. Customs at the Port of Entry. Now, however, she is deployed with her unit to Kuwait. Recently, the CDC sent out cards to the families of deployed task force members wishing them well and a speedy return home. One of these cards reached SPC F. and touched her deeply. She replied to the card with a photo (right) and a letter giving us here at CDHQ a small insight as to what the deployment is like for her. It's a subtle reminder that there are more important issues going on in the world than whether the A/C is working in our offices or how bad traffic will be on the drive home. I hope this letter will touch all of you as much as it has me.

LTC Loesch & Family

I am greatly & deeply honored to have received a card from you. I never get mail or packages. It is such an experience what I am going through. I connected with a unit I never met until 1 month prior to deploying. I hope God brings me back alive and well. So far I just have a few bruises, my finger almost got taken off changing a tire, but so far I've been blessed. Scorpions, snakes and fleas don't want us here, but unfortunately we don't have a choice. (Smile!) Six people I'm sure you know were lost. Two people badly injured and most of us just scared to death, but we remember to stay alert and stay alive! One killed with sniper fire on our MSR. We always complain about MSR Tampa. Horrible route, the sand so thick we can't see what's in front of us. Very Dangerous! We just drive on. So many stories to tell should I make it back. I have faith in God that I will. But, I would do it all over again if I could. Sorry to say everyone in the unit has been promoted, but I am attached to 1498 and my promotion hasn't been worked on. I left that in God's hands too. Just pray for us. All of us. If you want to send anything, insect repellent would be nice. Correctol for women (laxative). I would appreciate that. They tell me SSS (Skin So Soft) works well. I just keep praying that we



SPC Tracy F. (Bottom row, far right) a member of TSH, poses with her unit in Kuwait. SPC F. is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

get out of here before the sand fleas eat us alive. (Smile!) One night without RPG's, mortar rounds and gunfire would be awesome.

Not to mention the latrines are all portables! (Horrible! Especially for us females)

I'm the only one out everybody from San Diego, 2nd Bde. 2-40th

Infantry Div. (Mech), so it is hard. But, I am proud to say I carry a M249 (SAW). HOOAH! I am happy for that. They call me G.I. Jane. (Smile!) We have been ambushed like

***"The news doesn't always
We drink hot water and no
unbelievable, but we accomplish
Who said females co***

ght from deployed soldier



with other members of her unit at their home in Camp Victory,
m with her unit, the 1498th Transportation Company.

eight times already, but we made it. Lost four vehicles so
far and only one killed. We all work hard to keep up each
other's moral.

**say what's really going on.
A/C. The sand storms are
sh and complete all missions.
ouldn't do infantry?"**

SPC Tracy F.
1498th Trans. Co.

My family has
yet to write me
a letter or even
send a card,
but I think they
are having a
hard time
dealing with me
being here. The
news doesn't
always say

what's really going on. We drink hot water and no A/C. The
sand storms are unbelievable, but we accomplish and
complete all missions. Who said females couldn't do

infantry? They lied; we have proved it in the last 51/2
months. Again, thank you. The card you sent lifted my
spirits. Please enjoy the souvenir money and if you
can, will you send this picture back if you can make
three or four copies for me please? Take care, and
again, I greatly appreciate your kind card and warm
thoughts. I hope to be a LTC someday. I will strive for
General of the Army. HOOAH for life!

P.S. The Guard has not only trained me to be a
"Great Soldier," but also a great leader. "Selfless
Service" gives me the ability to endure severe
hardships for love of my fellow soldiers and our
country!!

Any deployed CD soldiers or airmen who have
pictures and would like them printed in the Informer,
send them to CD HQ care of the PANCO and I will
see to it that they get printed in future issues.



SSG Joseph B. recently returned from a deployment
with the 69th PCH to Hungary.

DARE survives budget cuts in Oak Park

By John Loesing
Acorn Staff Writer

Budget restrictions forced the Ventura County Sheriff's Department to discontinue drug education classes last year in Oak Park schools, but that doesn't mean students who previously received DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) are being ignored.

The DARE curriculum is now being taught by Chief Warrant Officer Jack T. of the California National Guard, a qualified DARE instructor who spends five days a week teaching the Oak Park students.

The National Guard's antidrug program is called Drug Demand Reduction (DDR), and similar to DARE, it's taught in all 50 states.

After hearing about the sheriff's department cutbacks last fall, CW4 T. requested a meeting with officials from both Conejo Valley and Oak Park school districts to see how the drug education program might be saved. The meeting also included Dale Brown, deputy director of DARE America, and Maj. Don S., head of the California DDR.

CW4 T. said DDR originally planned to serve both the Conejo and Oak Park unified school districts, but that the city of Thousand Oaks opted to continue the Conejo DARE program on its own.

His focus became unincorporated Oak Park, where he now teaches 24 classes a week to fifth- and seventh-graders. Classes began in February.

"I'm not just there preaching that drugs are bad," he said. "The whole intent is to give them a reason not to do drugs."

CW4 T. is one of only 17 DDR instructors in California qualified to teach the DARE curriculum. He and his assistant, Dep. Dave Spiker, visit the classrooms and discuss the myths and realities about substance abuse, among other things.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, he attends to the fifth-graders at Red Oak and Oak Hills elementary schools. Wednesdays are spent with Brookside Elementary School and Thursdays and Fridays with Medea Creek Middle School.

"In the fifth grade, they're just beginning to expand their peer groups as opposed to their parents," he said, "so we do a lesson on information and misinformation about drugs and the rumor of, 'Oh c'mon one time won't hurt you.' Well we try to dispel that myth."

He said he overcomes the natural shyness of fifth-graders by inviting them to place anonymous



CW4 Jack T. speaks to former drug czar GEN Barry McCaffrey at a DARE America event in Los Angeles.

questions inside a DARE drop box. He goes over the questions with the students each day at the beginning of class.

"We spend a lot of time talking about character," he said. "We build what's known as a six-piece character wheel and we talk about the various components of character."

Wearing his California National Guard uniform with aviator insignia—he's a helicopter pilot and air field safety officer at Camp Roberts—CW4 T. strikes quite a pose in front of the young students.

The National Guard's DDR/DARE program concludes in May. After that, the future of the program is uncertain, according to officials.

"We're not sure what's going to happen in the fall semester," he said. "If the Ventura County Sheriff can find some grant money, maybe we can get a deputy back in the classroom."

Identity theft is on the rise. How can you stop it?

By SMSgt. Dan G.
CDTF J-2

In the last 30 days two CD personnel have notified the J2 of identity theft.

Identity theft is the acquisition of key pieces of someone's identifying information in order to impersonate them. Identifying information is personal information such as your name, address, date of birth, social security number or your mother's maiden name.

What do you do if you suspect you are a victim of identity theft?

- Contact all creditors, by phone and in writing, to inform them of the problem
- Call your nearest Postal Inspection Service office and your local police
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem
- Call each of the three credit bureau's fraud units to report identity theft
- Ask to have a "Fraud Alert/Victim Impact" statement placed in your credit file asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts
- Alert your bank to flag your accounts and to contact you to confirm unusual activity
- Request a change of PIN and new password
- Keep a log of all contacts and make copies of all documents
- You may also wish to contact a privacy or consumer advocacy group regarding illegal activity
- Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline
- Contact the state office of the Department of Motor Vehicles to see if another license was issued in your name

Contact numbers:

Equifax Credit Bureau, Fraud
1-800-525-6285

Experian Information Solutions
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Credit Bureau, Fraud
1-800-680-7289

Federal Trade Commission
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)

Social Security Administration, Fraud Hotline
1-800-269-0271

Can it happen to you? YES!, unfortunately it is happening at a most alarming rate. Protect yourself and your identity by:

- Promptly remove mail from your mail box
- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection mail boxes or at your local post office
- Do not leave in unsecured mail receptacles
- Never give personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the call
- Shred pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills and other financial information you don't want
- Empty your wallet/purse of extra credit cards and Ids
- Opt to use an alternate number on Driver's License
- Order your credit report from the three credit bureaus once a year to check for discrepancies
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank windows, trash receptacles, or unattended gasoline pumps
- Memorize your SSN and all your passwords
- Sign all new credit cards upon receipt
- Save all credit card receipts and match them against your monthly bills
- Be conscious of normal receipt of financial statements
- Beware of mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions offering instant prizes or awards designed solely to obtain your personal information or credit card numbers
- Never use commonly used passwords/PINs such as dates of birth last four of your SSN, last four digits of your phone number or a series of consecutive numbers.

Also, never carry your SSN card with you and do not have the DMV put your SSN on your license.

Notes from the Horizon Conference

The recent RIF taking place within the task force dominated the conversations, official and unofficial, at the recent Horizon Conference. Team commanders briefed the Counterdrug Commander (CDC) on their plans for their teams for the upcoming FISCAL year. For some teams, these plans included a dramatic reduction in personnel. Rest assured the CDHQ is doing all it can to keep current members of the task force on the task force. Below are the commanders and CSM's vision statements for the up coming year:

Counterdrug Task Force

CDC's Vision Statement

Remain the National Guard's *"Premier"* Counterdrug Program by continuing to improve the stewardship of our resources. Provide these resources to our soldiers and airmen so we can effectively and safely accomplish our mission by offering outstanding service to our supported agencies/ organizations. Foster a work environment that treats everyone with dignity and respect; where *"Courage, Candor, Commitment, and Competence lead to Confidence and Credibility."*

CSM's Vision Statement

To develop a cohesive team of Senior Noncommissioned Officers that will lead, teach, and mentor all enlisted soldiers/airmen in the Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF). Ensure a safe and challenging working environment for all Task Force soldiers/airmen. Develop programs that will compliment the mission of the CDTF and promote excellence in all aspects of the CDTF program. Promote an exchange of ideas and conversation that will bring the CDTF Senior NCO team together to speak as one.